Llantrisant and Llantwit Fardre
Rural District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year Ended 31st December 1941

E. A. Bailey, Printer, Tonyrefail.

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Rural District Council

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PREFACE.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

At the request of the Ministry of Health, my Annual Report has been further curtailed, and I have been asked not to give certain Statistics as in previous years. As mentioned in my Report for last year, services in connection with this department have been expanding and are expanding while modifications are continually taking place in the Civil Defence Casualty Service. More Evacuees, official and unofficial came into the area but many evacuees returned home voluntarily.

More women have been doing work of national importance.

The Council opened its first War-time Nursery Centre, at Coedely, on the 15th September, 1941.

In December, 1941, the Government introduced a scheme for supplying Fruit Juices and Cod Liver Oil to provide for the Vitamin C and Vitamins A and D requirements of all children under 2.

At the beginning of 1941, the Government began a Diphtheria Immunization Campaign which was left to Local Authorities to carry out.

At the same time the normal work of the area went on except in so far as the war had interfered with matters chiefly concerned with Housing. There was a consequent increase in the work which was cheerfully undertaken by all concerned.

The general health of the district has been maintained, but there occurred an unfortunate outbreak of diphtheria in one locality.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

T. ISLWYN EVANS,

Medical Officer of Health.

Chairman of the Council : Councillor S. C. TEMBLETT, J.P.

COMMITTEES.

Maternity and Child Welfare Committee :

Chairman : Councillor Mrs. BETTY.

and Councillors P. JEFFERIES, F. E. WHEREAT, I. JACOB, T. GRIFFITHS, D. J. DAVIES, G. JOHN, E. J. LLEWELLYN, A. R. LOCKE, W. JENKINS, D. S. ROWLANDS, A. EVANS, W. LONG, Dr. W. MOODY JONES, J. W. CLAYTON, A. E. GRIFFITH and J.W. RAINES; with Mrs. ROCHE, Llantrisant ; Mrs. WARBURTON, Pontyclun ; Mrs. DAVIES, Beddau ; Mrs. E. EVANS and Mrs. I. EVANS, Tonyrefail ; Mrs. MORGAN and Mrs. BONNER, Gilfach Goch ; Mrs. CHICK and Mrs. CLAYTON, Llantwit Fardre.

Hospital Committee :

Chairman : Councillor G. JOHN.

and Councillors S. C. TEMBLETT, P. JEFFERIES, F. E. WHEREAT, I. JACOB, T. GRIFFITHS, D. J. DAVIS, E. J. LLEWELLYN, A. R. LOCKE, W. JENKINS, D. S. ROWLANDS, Mrs. BETTY, A. EVANS, W. LONG, Dr. W. MOODY JONES, J. W. CLAYTON, A. E. GRIFFITH and J. W. RAINES.

Public Health Committee :

Chairman : Councillor P. JEFFERIES.

and Councillor S. C.TEMBLETT, F. E. WHEREAT, I. JACOB, T. GRIFFITHS, D. J. DAVIES, G. JOHN, E. J. LLEWELLYN, A. R. LOCKE, W. JENKINS, D. S. ROWLANDS, Mrs. M. BETTY, A. EVANS, W. LONG, Dr. W. MOODY JONES, J. W. CLAYTON, A. E. GRIFFITH and J. W. RAINES.

Housing Commtitee :

Chairman : Councillor T. GRIFFITHS.

and Councillors S. C. TEMBLETT, P. JEFFERIES, F. E. WHEREAT, I. JACOB, D. J. DAVIES, G. JOHN, E. J. LLEWELLYN, A. R. LOCKE, W. JENKINS, D. S. ROWLANDS, Mrs. M. BETTY, A. EVANS, W. LONG, Dr. W. MOODY JONES, J. W. CLAYTON, A. E. GRIFFITHS and J. W. RAINES.

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health :

T. ISLWYN EVANS, M.A. (Cantab.), M.B., B.Ch. (Cantab.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H. (R.C.P. & S.).

Part-time Medical Officer for Ante-natal Work :

GRACE M. PHILLIPS, B.Sc., M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H., M.C.O.G.

Medical Officer of Contraceptive Clinic :

SYBIL MORGAN, B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Llantrisant.

Sanitary Inspectors :

Mr. JOHN DYER, 60 Mill Street, Tonyrefail (Sanitary and Meat Inspectors' Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute.
Mr. W. ROBERT WILLIAMS, Ty Gwyn, Llantrisant (Sanitary and Meat Inspectors' Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute, Joint Testamur of the University of Wales and Cardiff Technical College).

Health Visitors :

Mrs. A. M. JENKINS, 39 Mill Street, Tonyrefail (Certificate of Midwifery Board).

Mrs. H. GREY, Glyn Eirlys, Llantwit Fardre (Certificate of Midwifery Board, Health Visitors and School Nurses' Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute, County Council Social Science Certificate).

Mrs. B. JAMES, Highcroft, Pontypridd (State Registered Nurse, Certificate of Midwifery Board, Health Visitors and School Nurses Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute).
Miss A. THOMAS, 6 School Street, Tonyrefail (State Registered Nurse, State Certified Midwife, Health Visitors and School Nurses Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute).

Clerical Staff :

Miss M. E. ROBLIN.

Hospital Staff :

Matron : Miss L. E. BASSETT.
1 Sister.
2 Staff Nurses.
4 Assistant Nurses.
1 Probationer Nurse.

Additional Nurses are employed if and when found necessary.

LLANTRISANT AND LLANTWIT FARDRE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1941

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District : 18,433 acres.
Rateable Value : £96,538 (after de-rating).
Sum produced by a Penny Rate : £370.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

In general these are much the same as for the previous year. There are many more persons in employment, but there are still some unemployed.

In common with other parts of the country the district was subject to sporadic air raids.

There was as I have already said a regrettable increase in the number of cases of diphtheria and also in certain other contagious diseases.

EVACUEES.

The following official evacuees came into the area during the year :—

Mothers	173
Other Adults	99
Unaccompanied Children ...	613
Accompanied Children	305
Total	1190

and 2,267 official evacuees returned home during this period.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.

The number of live births has increased, being 492 against 466 for 1940.

Deaths.

The number of deaths during the year was 309 as compared with 324 for 1940.

Deaths of Infants under one year.

The number of deaths was 35 as compared with 34 for 1940.

Tuberculosis.

The deaths from this disease numbered 17 the same as for the previous year. Six males and eight females died from pulmonary tuberculosis, and one male and two females from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

Cancer.

The deaths from Cancer numbered 27 as compared with 36 for the previous year.

Respiratory Diseases (all forms).

The number for 1941 is 44 as compared with 51 for 1940.

Maternal Mortality.

During the year there was one maternal death, the same number as for the previous year.

Live Births.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	240	229	469
Illegitimate	10	13	23
	250	242	492

Still Births.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	8	7	15

HEALTH SERVICES.

These are the same as for previous years.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

A new Clinic Centre was opened at Church Village in a magnificent building. This has been a tremendous improvement on the old building. In connection with this Centre an Ante-natal Clinic was opened for the first time in the history of Llantwit Fardre. Otherwise the Clinic Centres are the same as for previous years.

The attendances at the Clinics were on the whole large and generally satisfactory.

NATIONAL DRIED MILK.

I regret I have had many complaints concerning this milk. The complaints being usually (1) that the child was vomiting after every feed, and (2) that the milk just ran through the child; and some difficulty was experienced in getting mothers to try this milk in many cases Another cause of difficulty was that many mothers had already been recommended by their midwives or hospital authorities to try dried milk other than N.D.M. before they ever came to the Infant Welfare Clinic. Furthermore, they could get these other milks without the bother of obtaining and filling up forms from the Milk Office. The milk continues to be distributed through the Clinic Centres.

Ulrta Violet Ray Clinic.

The total number of attendances during the year was 642.

Summary of Health Visitors' Reports.

Attendances at Clinics (Total).

Infants under one year—

First Attendances	393
Total Attendances	3967

Children 1-5 years—

First Attendances	118
Total Attendances	2492

Expectant Mothers—

Total number of Mothers who attended	453
Total Attendances	1168 (Increase of 171 over previous year).

Total Homes Visits (Maternity and Child Welfare).

Children under 1 year—

First Visits	503
Total Visits	2978

Children 1-5 years—

Total Visits	4104

Expectant Mothers—

First Visits	370
Total Visits	700

A regrettable number of people do not keep their appointments although as many as three appointments are given them, and many more refuse treatment when offered it in the Clinic.

Number of Cases Treated at the Treatment Clinics of the Glamorgan County Council.

(a) Children under five and not attending elementary schools :—

1. Orthopaedic	12
2. Dental	29
3. Ear, Nose and Throat	3
4. Ophthalmic	2

(b) Expectant and Nursing Mothers :—

1. Dental	54

Complicated Maternity Cases.

Number of women admitted to Llwynypia Hospital ...	65
Number of women admitted to Central Homes, Pontypridd (on domiciliary grounds)	39
Number of Home Helps provided	Nil

Children and Young Persons Act.

Number of Children on Register at end of the year ... Nil

An advertisement was inserted in the Press during the year.

MIDWIFERY AND MATERNITY SERVICES.

Consulting Obstetrician :

Professor GILBERT I. STRACHAN, M.D., F.R.C.S.

The services of Professor Strachan are available to any prospective mother attending any of the Council's Ante-natal Clinics, and who presents any complications requiring specialized treatment during labour, at her home.

This service may be arranged only through the Medical Officer of Health. Provision is also made for consultations with Dr. Strachan for women attending the Ante-natal Clinics and showing signs of special difficulty, and for cases of puerperal fever.

Fever Hospital.

I must again emphasize the great difficulty in working this hospital for the reasons I have mentioned in previous Annual Reports. Staffing and accommodation difficulties are extremely acute.

Prevalence and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

There was a considerable decrease in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever notified, and also a slight decrease in the number of cases of Diphtheria,which disease chiefly occurred in the Gilfach Goch area. A large number of these cases were either (a) not Diphtheria at all or (b) were cases sent in because they had a positive swab of the nose or throat. Owing to there being such a large number of Diphtheria cases I had to reserve the hospital for these cases only and even then many cases had to be admitted to outside hospitals. This was done with considerable difficulty.

There was a great increase in the number of cases of Whooping Cough notified and similarly of Measles.

There was a considerable decrease in the number of cases of Cerebro Spinal Fever.

With regard to the other Infections Diseases there was not much difference in the numbers notified.

There was a decrease in the number of cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year. The cases notified were :—

Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
11	15	8	6

Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis).

Disease	No. Notified	No. admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	36	—	—
Typhoid	2	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	6	3	1
Pneumonia	22	—	17 +
Erysipelas	11	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	12	12	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	—	—
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	1	1	—
Measles	476	—	64
Whooping Cough	112	—	2
Diphtheria	167	167	4

+ This number includes Primary Bronchial Pneumonia.

Active Immunization against Diphtheria.

The above Scheme which was in the nature of a "drive" in diphtheria immunization on the part of the Ministry of Health

was commenced in this area in February. Every school was visited and many sessions held at the various Infant Welfare Cilnics. In consequence of this " drive " the Ministry supply the immunization material free of cost. Both material and methods differ somewhat from those that have been employed in the past. A number of children who commenced treatment were schick tested to see if the inoculation had been successful. There are occasionally a few cases which seem unable to respond to the treatment.

Total number of children who received one injection of A.P.T. 2382

Total number of children who completed treatment 1946

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Sewage Effluents.

Total number of Samples examined at the County Laboratory showing :—

Efficient Purification 21
Non-Efficient Purification ... ... Nil

Sources of Water Supply.

The sources of water supply are the same as for last year. Towards the end of the year two Chlorination plants have been installed to serve this area.

Sewage Disposal Areas.

The same as for previous years.

Recreation Grounds.

Owing to the war, the recreation grounds at Beddau are still not completed.

Closet Accommodation.

During the year one pail closet was converted to a water-closet, part of the cost being borne by the Council.

Public Cleansing.

Same as for previous year.

Smoke Abatement.

Nuisance caused by the emission of smoke and grit from the South Wales Electrical Power Company's Generating Station at Tonteg still causes annoyance to the inhabitants.

Housing.

Owing to the shortage of labour and materials and of the more urgent demands of essential war work some difficulty has been experienced in getting satisfactory repairs carried out to dwelling houses, and the housing problem is becoming more acute. There appears to be little hope of improvement until after the war, and even then those areas which have suffered heavy war damage will undoubtedly be given priority in the matter of building materials over the more fortunate areas which have suffered little or no damage.

A certain amount of overcrowding occurred which, under the prevailing conditions, had to be treated with tolerance.

Eradication of Bed-Bugs.

Bed-bug infestation remains a problem of some difficulty. During the year 11 Council houses and 14 other houses were found to be affected and were fumigated with sulphur dioxide, followed in some cases by the use of liquid disinfectants (Izal, Killgerm, &c.) insecticides (zaldicides). Successful treatment depends largely upon the co-operation and perseverance of the occupiers of the affected houses. In most cases they are only too anxious to help, but some are rather indifferent and look upon the remedy as being worse than the complaint. As long as there are people of the latter type the bug will remain an irritating source of sleepless nights.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Examinations.

Number of Samples Examined at Laboratory

(Samples taken by local Sanitary Inspectors).

	Type of Milk.					
	Tuberculin Tested	Accredited	Pasteurised	Ordinary or ungraded	Total
Satisfactory	2	4	33	24	63
Fairly Satisfactory	—	—	—	—	—
Unsatisfactory	—	—	19	9	28
Total	2	4	52	33	91

Examination for Enteric Organisms : 1 Negative.

There are still far too many unsatisfactory results.

At the end of the year there were 10 licenced producers of Graded Milk in the district. One licenced for the production of T.T. Milk and nine for Accredited.

Meat Inspection.

In addition to the normal inspection of butchers' meat 158 bacon pigs which had been slaughtered by the owners for their own consumption were inspected during the year. Some of them were found to be infected with tuberculosis. Usually the infection was slight and localised, but in one large pig the disease was generalised, all organs and most of the carcase lymphatic glands showing tuberculous lesions, but as it was not intended for sale it could not legally be seized, and it was only after a good deal of persuasion that the owner eventually agreed to surrender the whole carcase and offal. This is not an isolated case, but it is sufficient to draw attention to a weakness in the law relating to meat and food inspection which at present only applies to food intended for sale for human consumption. In my opinion power should be given to inspect, and if necessary seize, any unfit part or product of an animal intended for human consumption, irrespective of whether it is for sale or not. Whatever danger there may be in consuming diseased meat is no way reduced by the absence of a monetary transaction.

Summary of the Sanitary Work carried out by the Llantrisant and Llantwit Fardre Rural District Council during the year ending 31st December, 1941.

Number of houses inspected		573
Number of houses repaired—		
After service of statutory notices	53	
After service of informal notices	100	
		153
Number of new water-closets erected		—
Number of new flushing cisterns fixed		9
Number of cases of infectious diseases investigated		186
Number of houses disinfected		186
Number of cesspools emptied		24
Number of visits to common lodging-houses		5
Number of visits to factories, etc.		83
Number of visits to cowsheds and dairies		214
Number of new cowsheds built		1
Number of rat baits laid		460
Number of samples of milk taken for examination		89
Number of samples of water taken for examination		27

Approximate amount of meat and other foodstuffs found to be unfit :—

Meat	600lbs.
Fruit	50 boxes
Peas	12½cwts.
Butter and other groceries (including a small amount damaged by enemy action)	80lbs.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS—CASUALTY SERVICE.

Medical Officer in Charge of whole of Civil Defence Casualty Service : T. Islwyn Evans, Council Offices, Pontyclun. (Pontyclun 51 (Day) ; Newtown Llantwit 39 (Night).

First Aid Post—Talbot Green, Llantrisant. Tel. No. Llantrisant 36.

Medical Officer in Charge : Dr. J. C. R. Morgan, Llantrisant. Tel. No. Llantrisant 13.

Deputy Medical Officer in Charge : Dr. J. Brereton, Tonyrefail. Tel. No. Tonyrefail 13.

First Aid Party Depots.

Tonyrefail—St. John's Ambulance Hall, Tonyrefail. Tel. No. Tonyrefail 72.

Gilfach Goch—Co-operative Hall, Gilfach Goch. Tel. No. Gilfach Goch 17.

Church Village—Council Schools, Church Village. Tel. No. Newtown Llantwit 78.

Pontyclun—Council Schools, Pontyclun. Tel. No. Pontyclun 98.

First Aid Point—18 Castellmynach Road, Beddau. Tel. No. Newtown Llantwit 77.

Transport.

Transport Officer : Miss B. Salmon. Tel. No. Llantrisant 25.

Three Glamorgan County Council Ambulances attached to Pontyclun, Tonyrefail and Church Village Depots respectively.

Cars for First Aid Parties 5
Cars for Sitting Cases 5

and a number of second line cars.

During the year there was some sporadic bombing in the area, and a few tragic and regrettable incidents occurred. On the whole the personnel have been loyal and keen in their work, but we have naturally lost many for various reasons chiefly owing to their being called to the Forces or their removing to other parts of the country.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

T. ISLWYN EVANS,

Medical Officer of Health.

Council Offices,
Pontyclun,
December, 1942.